

● 577 Krashennnikoff's opinion, that theft is regarded by the Koryak as laud-
 114 able,¹ is utterly unjust. In former times it was considered right to plunder
 685 enemies; but this was a form of spoil, and not theft. Their language has a
 word for stealing (ti-to'latnā, "I steal"); but cases of theft are rare. If one is
 convicted of stealing, the owner takes away the stolen things, and just laughs
 at the thief.²

685 During the whole of my sojourn among the Koryak I lost nothing from
 my belongings. My boxes and bags, packed full of provisions, and goods
 for exchange and presents, — all of considerable value, and sealed only with
 a sealing-wax seal, — were frequently left by me outside, or in the care of
 a Koryak, to be taken to some other place in my absence; and never a
 thing was lost. On the contrary, on the two occasions on which I did lose
 things in the Gishiga district, the theft was committed by Russian drivers.

577 The orders that I gave to the Koryak for models, or for the acquisition
 of articles for my collection, were carried out by them honestly and promptly.
 On one occasion only did a trader — a Koryak from the Mikino settlement,
 who had gone to the Opuka River for purposes of trade — send me fewer
 things than I ordered from him. In this case, his son, when I told him that
 according to my calculations his father was in debt to me, straightened out
 the difference by giving me a rug of reindeer-skins.

I will touch here on the sympathy of the Reindeer Koryak for human
 suffering. They are always ready to assist the starving — no matter who
 they may be, Maritime Koryak or Russians — by bringing them reindeer.
 The poor inhabitants of the Russian settlements, when their fish-supplies are
 exhausted toward spring, go to the Reindeer camps, and the Koryak slaughter
 reindeer for them, either for a trifling remuneration or on trust. The Russian
 drivers who, in the spring of 1900, took me and my belongings on seven
 dog-sledges to the Reindeer Koryak of the Topolovka River, left that place
 with their sledges loaded with slaughtered reindeer.

153 The mind of the Koryak, we may say, works as slowly as does his
 clumsy body, and gets tired as quickly. Very few of the women were able
 to dictate to me two tales in succession. Usually, after having told one tale,
 they would ask to be relieved, for they were tired. In taking my notes, I
 was obliged to stop frequently, for I could see that my interpreter was tired,
 and unable to follow my questions with proper attention.

517 The Koryak are very fond of knowledge. They followed with great
 interest the descriptions of the life of the people in other countries. Every
 novelty excites and attracts them; but their attention is not lasting. Our
 phonograph made the most striking impression wherever we went. Often a

¹ Krashennnikoff, II, p. 220.

² From the myths we can also see that the Koryak do not regard theft as a virtue. Emu'mgat's wife, Emu'm-woman, being accused of stealing, was driven out of Big-Raven's house (Part I, p. 222).

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116, 157, 574, 577

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Koryak
Reindeer

"The natural disposition of the Wandering Koraks is thoroughly good. They treat their women and children with great kindness; and during all my intercourse with them, extending over two years, I never saw a woman or child struck. Their honesty is remarkable. Frequently they would harness up a team of reindeer after we had left their tents in the morning, and overtake us at a distance of five or ten miles, with a knife, a pipe, or some such trifle which we had overlooked and forgotten in the hurry of departure. Our sledges, loaded with tobacco, beads, and trading goods of all kinds, were left unguarded outside their tents; but never, so far as we knew, was a single article stolen. We were treated by many bands with as much kindness and generous hospitality as I ever experienced in a civilized country and among Christian people; and if I had no money or friends, I would appeal to a band of Wandering Koraks for help with much more confidence than I would ask the same favor of many an American family. Cruel and barbarous they may be, according to our ideas of cruelty and barbarity; but they have never been known to commit an act of treachery, and I would trust my life as unreservedly in their hands as I would in the hands of any other uncivilized people whom I have ever known."

"The reasons for the great difference between the settled and the Wandering Koraks are various. In the first place, the former live in fixed villages, which are visited very frequently by the Russian traders; and through these traders and Russian peasants they have received many of the worst vices of civilization without any of its virtues. To this must be added the demoralizing influence of American whalers, who have given the settled Koraks rum and cursed them with horrible diseases, which are only aggravated by their diet and mode of life. They have learned from the Russians to lie, cheat, and steal; and from whalers to drink rum and be licentious. Besides all these vices, they eat the intoxicating Siberian toadstool in inordinate quantities, and this habit alone will in time debase and brutalize any body of men to the last degree."